

very, very hopeful that we will do an omnibus because an omnibus at least gives the government and its agencies a year's worth of notice as to what resources they have to use to accomplish the objectives we have asked them to.

I wish I had a more specific answer for you, but, as you know, the negotiations are going on about the top line, and hopefully that will be resolved relatively soon.

Mr. SCALISE. A broader discussion for another day. Clearly, as we look at next year, we would hope to pass all 12 appropriations bills out of the House, but as the gentleman points out, at some point the Senate is going to have to start moving appropriations bills, too. It can't just be this game of chicken where the clock is going to strike midnight and the Senate waits to start doing their job until it is already the midnight hour as opposed to it would be nice if there was some kind of shot clock they had after we send them a bill where they would actually act on that bill so it is not just an onus on the House to do our job, whether it is a partisan or bipartisan bill, and we have seen both that come out of the House.

At some point, the Senate has also got to do their job in a legislative body where you have a House and a Senate, if we are going to be able to conduct business that is not always waiting until the midnight hour to finally get a resolution on something as important as this. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. The gentleman is absolutely correct. There is a shot clock. It is September 30 at midnight. That is the shot clock. That is when government no longer is funded if we do not take some additional action.

I said to somebody this morning, there are 535 of us. Presumably we are all adults, presumably we are all rational people. Neither side would agree that everybody is that. But the fact of the matter is, we don't do what we know we have to do. You may want to do a lot of things, and we passed from our perspective very good legislation through this Congress, but the only thing you have to do is pass the 12 appropriations bills so you can fund the operations of government or make a decision that you are not going to fund a department, a program, an activity, whatever. But we don't do that.

We have, unfortunately, the sense that the delay is an acceptable process, as the gentleman points out. Then you get to the last minute, a crisis, and then you get a big bill we call the omnibus bill, that really it is so large and so few people have been participating in the formulation of that bill that it is unfair to the Members of Congress, and it is unfair to the American people.

I couldn't agree with the gentleman more that the appropriation process should be done, my own view is each bill should be considered individually. The Republicans started the practice, we followed the same practice of bundling them so we could save time. I

look forward to working with the gentleman. I am going back to the Appropriations Committee, working with Chair DELAURO and Ranking Member DELAURO on doing that. But to her credit, all 12 bills were reported out of committee in a timely fashion, and this is gratuitous—you didn't ask for this advice—but what I would suggest we should have done if we could have done it is start the markups in May, pass the bills in June, send them to the Senate, and have July and August and September to resolve differences between the two, and pass the bills by September 30. That is what we ought to do, I agree with the gentleman. It is an objective that we ought to try to attain.

Mr. SCALISE. I share the gentleman's concerns there. One of the reasons we put the calendar out for next year this early and built time in during those months before the summer so that there is ample time to get all 12 appropriations bills through the House, give the Senate time to do the work well in advance of the deadline, and then at some point the onus has to be on them to do the job they have to do before the midnight hour. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. One of the things—I have been on the Appropriations Committee; I was on it for 23 years before I took leave—we had actual conferences, Senators and House Members on the two subcommittees came together, discussed differences, tried to resolve those differences. That essentially does not exist any longer, and it is not healthy, I think, for the institution.

Mr. SCALISE. It is a good suggestion and something we can get back to, hopefully, in the new year, try to make this process work better. I appreciate the suggestion.

Again, we will have this conversation more next week. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who recently honored the over 14 million of his countrymen in Ukraine who died during the Holodomor, the Soviet-enforced famine that purposefully starved Ukraine in the early 1930s to subjugate them and politically control them.

Then, as now, the tyrants of the Soviet Union, Josef Stalin, and Russia used food and famine as a weapon of war. Innocent civilians are not unintended victims but, rather, specific targets of horrific brutality to rule over them.

Russia's and Putin's aim in this modern era, waging a war on Ukraine, is to

kill, maim, starve, freeze, and torture as many men, women, elderly, and children as possible.

These are war crimes. Putin and his enablers are war criminals. But the courageous Ukrainian people have not broken, they have not bent. They fight on with great valor.

As Ukraine leads this righteous fight for her liberty, her sovereignty, and her very survival, it is incumbent upon all free nations to aid her in her time of need.

Ukraine, America stands with you. The world stands with you. We pray and fight for the day that your home will be a peaceful, enterprising, and virtuous one again.

#### AMERICA SHOULD RETURN TO THE GOLD STANDARD

(Mr. MOONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, the United States is facing an inflation and debt crisis not seen in over 40 years. West Virginians have seen the value of their savings erode before their very eyes because of reckless tax-and-spend policies.

We know who is responsible for the current inflation crisis, but what in our country's history has allowed us to get to this point? The answer can actually be traced back to 1971, when President Nixon took the United States off the gold standard.

The gold standard means tying the dollar directly to the value of gold. Under the gold standard, any American would be able to trade their dollars for a fixed amount of gold. By linking the dollar to the value of gold, the money supply could only be increased if the supply of gold increases. This connects and protects the purchasing power of your dollars.

That is why I introduced legislation to return the United States to the gold standard. Had we been on the gold standard or some other fixed standard, we would not be in the inflation crisis we are in today. I look forward to working with the Republican majority to make sure this issue gets attention.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF BETTY RAY MCCAIN

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Betty Ray McCain, who sadly passed away last week.

She was a force of nature. She spent decades fighting for North Carolinians, from working for former Governor Jim Hunt to serving on UNC's Board of Governors.

Much of the social progress we have made in North Carolina can be credited to Betty Ray McCain's work with the

North Carolina Democratic Party, where she served as the first chairwoman. In the 1970s and 1980s, she was one of the most important voices in the fight to ratify the ERA.

As a long-time resident of Wilson, North Carolina, Betty Ray McCain always gave back to the community she called home. She paved the way for women like me, and her legacy will inspire future generations.

Betty Ray McCain left her mark on North Carolina history, and we are better because of her.

#### THANKING JAY HURST FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my defense fellow, Jay Hurst, for a year of exceptional service to our office and to our Nation.

Jay joined us in January, and he has enriched our office with his invaluable insights and great company. He was instrumental in the NDAA process and meeting with Members and staffers from offices across Capitol Hill, and achieving great wins for our State, Louisiana, and our country.

Although he was only with us for a year, Jay instantly became like family to us, mentoring our interns and making complex military issues understandable for staff. In his spare time—he didn't have much—he also published scholarly articles on military matters on a number of pressing policy questions.

Jay is leaving us for the Pentagon, where he will undoubtedly carry on the high standard of excellence that he brought to our office. My friend will be missed and prayed for. I thank him for all of his service.

#### CONGRATULATING GREG HARRIS ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Illinois House Majority Leader Greg Harris, who is retiring from office at the end of this session after 16 years of dedicated service to the north side of Chicago and to our entire city and State.

Simply put, Majority Leader Harris' tenure in the General Assembly has been historic. He spearheaded the effort to legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois in 2013, championed healthcare reform, and has fought with great success to expand the access to housing in our State.

Majority Leader Harris is a skilled and compassionate legislator. As the first openly gay person in Illinois legislative leadership, he has brought a

lived experience to his work and has created a more equitable city and State.

I am grateful for all the work Majority Leader Harris has accomplished. His work will benefit people in Illinois for generations to come. May he enjoy his well-deserved retirement.

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#### RECOGNIZING JANET NYCE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated efforts of a great champion in service of wildlife preservation and nature conservation. Janet Nycy of Elliptsburg, Pennsylvania, is a leading advocate for conservation and women in the outdoors, both locally and nationally.

Since 1990, Janet has held leadership roles in conservation organizations such as the Safari Club, the National Rifle Association, and the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation. In addition to being a charter member of the Wildlife for Everyone Foundation since 2004, Janet served as secretary and president during her tenure. Most recently, Janet was elected by her fellow members to serve on the board of directors of the NRA.

Most notably, Janet has dedicated her time to teaching classes about the outdoors and self-defense for women. She has frequently been an instructor for hunting and firearms safety courses throughout the United States.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Janet Nycy for her many years of dedication to the cause of conservation and outdoor sportsmanship. Thanks to her work, future generations will be able to carry on in the outdoor traditions that we now enjoy.

#### MEDIA SHOULD REPORT ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, for those folks back home and the members of the news media, when we talk about the number of illegal immigrants coming here, they basically come in here two ways.

Either they check in with the Border Patrol, say that they are going to show up for a hearing, eventually, to see whether they are an appropriate subject for asylum, and then they disappear into America. At least we know a little bit about them because they check in with the Border Patrol.

More dangerous is what they call the got-aways who just run through the many holes of our southern border. We have no idea who they are. They are more dangerous because we know nothing about them.

It recently came out that there were 73,000 got-aways who entered the country in November. That is the all-time high. As far as the last 2 years are concerned, it blew by the old all-time high by 22 percent.

I would hope that our slumbering news media would wake up and do a story about this so the American citizens know what a rapid increase we have of people coming into this country who don't even get the cursory examination that people who come here seeking asylum do. So please, news media, wake up.

#### CROPS NEED MORE WATER FROM GOVERNMENT

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California has suffered from water shortages for a few years, partly due to low rainfall and snowpack annually, but in big part due to the poor management of the water we do receive.

Our lakes were basically full in 2019 and also in 2017, when you may recall the Oroville Dam spillway incident.

Our water systems, both State and Federal, are designed to withstand 5 years of drought. It doesn't work when government regulators let all the water out for dubious fish and environmental purposes.

Lake Oroville, in 2021, which was less than 2 years after being full, had its lowest level in its history, so low it wasn't even making hydroelectric power—this in a State that wants to electrify all of our cars and appliances.

So, what are we going to do? Hundreds of thousands of acres of ag land also have been idle with these crops that all of America depends on, not just California. It is not just California farmers. These crops are used widely across our whole country. Yet, they are not being grown because they are wasting our water.

Rain season is now upon us. I hope we can get our Federal and State regulators to be much wiser about saving our water and keeping it stored so we don't run short of food and electricity due to their bad management.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM BOARD MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL ETHICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES) laid before the House the following communication from the Governing Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

*Minnetonka, MN, December 2, 2022.*

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: I hereby resign my position as an alternate on the Board of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

This will allow me to switch positions with current OCE Board Member Karan English.

It is an honor to serve you and the U.S. House of Representatives on the OCE Board.

Thank you very much,

WILLIAM P. LUTHER,  
*Minnesota (Member 1995–2003).*